

Application No. 10/689,817
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording apparatus,
comprising:

an ink jet head that discharges supplied ink from a nozzle;
a deaeration device that deaerates dissolved gas from the

5 ink supplied to the ink jet head;

an ink reservoir that is provided in an ink channel between
the deaeration device and the ink jet head, ~~and applies negative~~
~~pressure by a difference in wherein a level of a surface of the~~
10 ~~ink in the ink reservoir surface and is different from a level~~
~~of the nozzle such that negative pressure is applied to the ink~~
~~in the nozzle;~~ and

a preventative member that ~~is floated~~ floats on the surface
of the ink in the ink reservoir and prevents contact between the
ink and air.

2. (Currently Amended) The ink jet recording apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein the preventative member ~~is plural~~
comprises a plurality of balls.

3. (Currently Amended) The ink jet recording apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein the preventative member ~~is~~
comprises a plate.